Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/20/75

Mr. Les Whitten
c/o Jack Anderson
1401 16 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Les,

The today's column as it appears in the Frederick Post opens with a Samoza item.

The founding father of that dictatorship called the Italian ambassador in during the World War II period. His purpose was to get a personal account from Mussolini of the way to do it as Il Duce did.

Dutifully the ambassador wrote the letter.

We captured it in World War II. In the Italian Foreign Office. It reached Washington on film. The film was also printed. I don't know whether the original documents ever came here.

The State Department may have released this letter but unless on release it got no attention it didn't. I believe that with the time lapse it can't any longer be withheld under Executive Order 11652.

The only FOIA exemption that might be invoked of which I can think is that which does give the right - not as broadly as the government pretends - where there can be an influence on foreign relations.

This one I did see. It passed through my hands.

What I saw records of but could never find is 25 reels of microfilm of what the partisans captured with Mussolini. Maybe it was 25 suitcases the contents of which that could be copied were microfilmed. I traced them to the Pentagon. And never could find them although I remember trying.

Those trusting partisans turned the stuff over to the U.S.Army.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. JFK could not have faked that ambassador's letter. He was busy in another part of the world.